

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully request reconsideration. Claims 1-52 were previously pending in this application. Claims 1 and 50 have been amended. Claims 49 and 52 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-48 and 50-51 are now pending for examination, with claim 1 being independent.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges the indication in the Office Action that claims 49-51 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitation of claim 49, which depends solely from claim 1, thereby placing this claim in condition for allowance. All of the remaining claims in the application depend from independent claim 1 which should be in condition for allowance as noted above.

Rejection of Claims 1, 4, 8, 9, and 23-31 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 4, 8, 9, and 23-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by DE 4004220 (Koch).

Without acceding to the correctness of this rejection, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the limitation of dependent claim 49 which does not stand rejected on this ground. Therefore, for at least this reason, independent claim 1 is patentable in view of Koch. The remaining claims that stand rejected on this ground all depend from claim 1 and, thus, are also patentable.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of rejections on this ground.

Rejection of Claims 2, 3, 5-7, 10-22, 32-42, and 46-48 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 2, 3, 5-7, 10-22, 32-42, and 46-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over DE 4004220 (Koch) in view of GB2278010 (Natsuko).

As noted above, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the limitation of dependent claim 49 thereby placing claim 1 in condition for allowance. The claims that stand rejected on this ground depend from 1 and, thus, are also patentable.

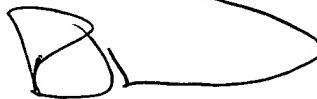
Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections on this ground.

CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,
Tao T. Tao, et al., Applicant(s)



By: _____

Robert H. Walat, Reg. No. 46,324
Timothy J. Oyer, Reg. No. 36,628
Wolf, Greenfield & Sacks, P.C.
600 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02210-2206
Telephone: (617) 646-8000

Docket No.: T0457.70003US00

Date: July 22, 2005

x07/25/05x